

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



## Air Power Quote of the Week

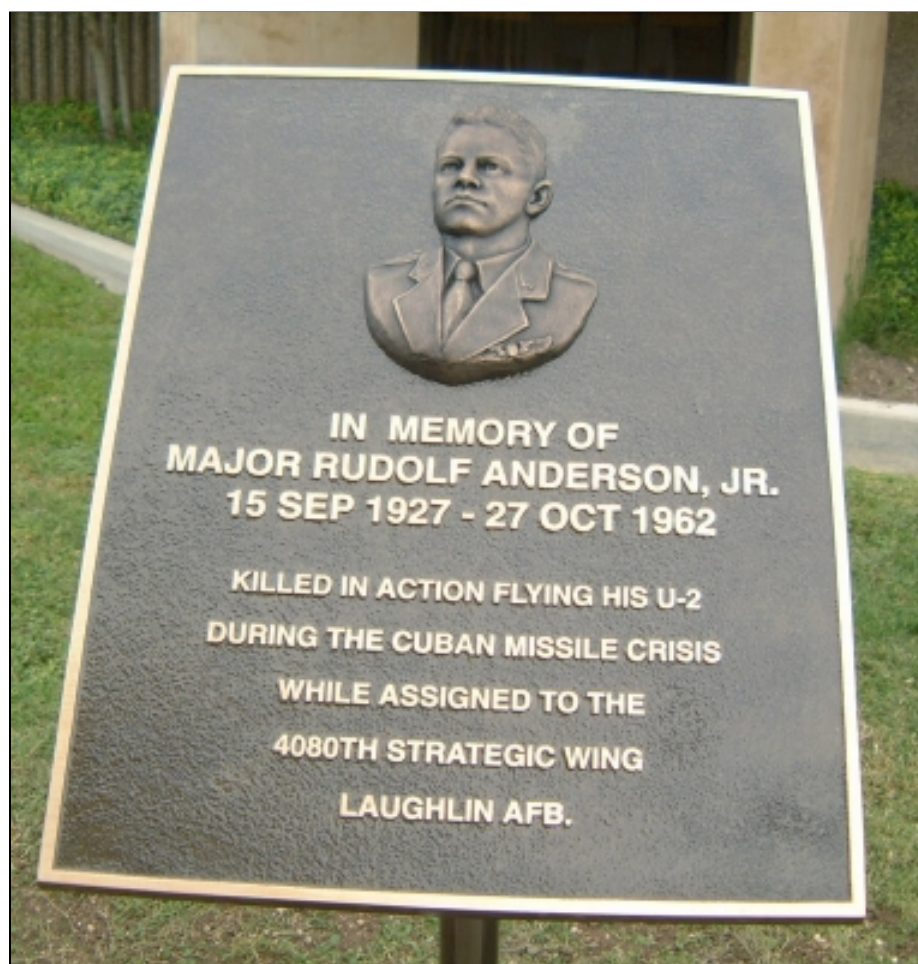
"If we lose the war in the air we lose the war and lose it quickly."

— Field Marshal  
Bernard Montgomery

Vol. 50, No. 41

[www.laughlin.af.mil](http://www.laughlin.af.mil)

Oct. 25, 2002



Courtesy photo

Photo of the plaque which sits outside of Anderson Hall. The Operation Training Complex was renamed Anderson Hall Oct. 26, 2001, in a ceremony attended by Major Anderson's son and daughter.

## Laughlin hero made his mark 40 years ago

### Compiled from staff reports

"Laughlin U2 pilot missing on recon mission over Cuba," screamed the bold headlines of the Del Rio News-Herald newspaper on Sunday morning, Oct. 28, 40 years ago.

It was true, an American pilot, Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr., flying an unarmed Lockheed U-2 reconnaissance aircraft, had been shot down by a Soviet-made SA-2 surface to air missile while over Cuba. His mission to obtain the best possible photographs of Soviet nuclear missiles placed on the island in a gamble to quickly and decisively change the balance of world power.



Major Anderson

The first photos that would shock the world were taken on Oct. 14, 1962, on a mission by Maj. Richard Heyer of Laughlin's 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. The

next day Major Anderson would also get photos of the missiles.

Pilots of the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing flying the U-2 missions recognized that under certain conditions a SAM missile could reach their aircraft. Accepting that fact, Major Anderson would depart McCoy Air Force Base, Fla., on Oct. 27th, a day later to be called "Eyeball to Eyeball" day by the secretary of state.

At approximately 10:15 a.m. Major Anderson's aircraft would be

[See 'Anderson,' page 5](#)

## Laughlin celebrates Halloween with safety in mind

**By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde**  
Staff writer

The 47th Flying Training Wing Safety office and 47th Security Forces Squadron have joined efforts to monitor child safety and promote public security during the trick-or-treat hours Halloween day.

The Halloween trick-or-treat hours have been established from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday in all housing areas here.

The initiatives were created to facilitate the safe enjoyment of the Halloween traditions, said Maj. David Abercrombie, 47th SFS commander.

Traffic control points will be established at the entry points to housing areas where drivers will be instructed to reduce their speed to 5 miles per hour during the trick-or-treat hours.

To limit the risks of excessive vehicle traffic in the housing areas, drivers will be asked to park outside the housing area and to conduct trick-or-

treating on foot. Vehicle access will be granted to housing residents.

According to Major Abercrombie, a security forces goblin patrol was created to enforce the established initiatives.

"[The] patrols will oversee safety and security of trick-or-treaters," he said. "The goblin patrol will escort lost children to the nearest traffic con-

[See 'Safety,' page 5](#)

## Quick News

### Air Power call:

A Wing Air Power Call is set for 3:30 p.m. today in Anderson Hall.

[More on page 4](#)

### Health luncheon:

A women's health luncheon is set for 11 a.m. today at the Fiesta Center.

[More on page 4](#)

### Set clocks back:

Daylight-saving time starts Sunday. Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday night.

## Countdown to ORI:

6 weeks



## Commanders' Corner

By Lt. Col. Mike Joseph  
47th Medical Support Squadron commander

### We can learn from ancestors' hardships

Early in the last century, an immigrant from what is now Syria arrived in the United States. It was most likely a trying journey by ship from the old to the new world. A new country with a new language, customs, and separation from a wife and children awaited the traveler.

Why would one leave home and the familiar to strike out in a new world? What my great-grandfather Abraham experienced in the seven years from his leaving home to the day he was re-united with his family – I can only imagine, but I know why he did it. He saw America as a land of freedom and opportunity. I never had the chance to talk to this man as he died when I was quite young. But I've used his example to carry me through separations from my family – a four-month long deployment isn't even close to seven years.

My grandfather Joseph arrived in America at the age of 16 and married

Mary Abraham at 24. My grandparents were proud to become Americans and pushed their children toward education as a means of getting ahead in America.

Would my great-grandfather and my grandparents see America as the land of freedom and opportunity today? Well, perhaps since September 11, 2001, we are a little more restricted in what we can carry on an airplane. Perhaps you have been profiled as a possible suspect and had your baggage searched. Perhaps the clothes you wear, your accent, or another language spoken or the color of your skin has caused a head to turn and question your actions with a look or worse a report to the police. Perhaps you go to work and worry about a terrorist attack or a sniper. America the land of freedom and opportunity – you question. Now remember what my ancestors and their neighbors had to put up with, a knock on the door by armed govern-

ment soldiers in the night, demands for livestock, female relatives. Practicing a religion that was not the majority religion. Controlled movement to and from the country – my great uncle was fired upon while swimming to the Greek freighter and the journey that eventually brought him to America.

Doubt your opportunities in the United States? My Syrian ancestors were simple farming folk without much education. Most of my American-born aunts and uncles are college educated. My siblings and I all have earned at least one graduate degree and have careers from full-time mom and college instructor to former health care administrator and current doctoral candidate, to senior corporate executive, and Air Force deputy group commander/ squadron commander. My ancestors made the right choices coming to this country, I am proud of them and the nation I serve – never forget your roots.

### Practice makes perfect with integrity

By Lt. Col. Anthony Smith  
14th Flying Training Wing

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – As most of us do, I often look at world events covered in the media from the perspective of "How does this affect me?" or "What lessons can I take away from these events?"

The continuing war on terrorism, the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11, and the threat of a new war in Iraq have overshadowed other recent events in the national media with important lessons for us as military members.

I'm referring to the failure of large, previously financially sound companies that resulted in significant hardships, and even financial ruin, for countless employees. Some of

these corporate failures are the alleged result of gross mismanagement and even criminal activity.

Whether those allegations are true or false is a topic for a much more in-depth study.

The question for us is how we prevent it from happening in our organization. We are an Air Force that embodies a core value of advancing integrity. That is no small task and one that, once compromised, is twice as difficult to reestablish. It is a problem best prevented by the old adage, "practice makes perfect."

Throughout our lives, all of us are confronted with situations from time to time where a minor breach of personal integrity might easily make a problem go away, get us out of a little trouble, make us look a little better to our boss or save us from an

additional hour of paperwork.

Most of the time no one will even know about our convenient little lapse of integrity and no one will be the worse for it. We may back date a document to meet a particular suspense or we may tell a co-worker our computer was down rather than admit we forgot about a specific task.

All seemingly minor indiscretions, but each time we compromise our integrity even the smallest amount, it makes it that much easier to take the same approach the next time. Before long we will find ourselves justifying larger indiscretions despite more severe consequences and potentially far-reaching adverse affects to the organization and its members.

See 'Integrity,' page 3



#### Editorial Staff

Col. Dan Woodward  
Commander

1st Lt. Paula Kurtz  
Public affairs chief

Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde  
Staff writer

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Submissions can be e-mailed to: [timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil) or [yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil).

***“Excellence  
– not our  
goal, but our  
standard.”***

**– 47th FFW motto**



# Deployed airmen are true patriots

By Lt. Col. Rich Cordell  
8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron commander

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia – I’ve always considered myself a patriot, but recently I’ve come to realize there’s more to patriotism than wearing red, white and blue.

Let me set the scene for my awakening. The cell phone rang; it was the boss. He began, “Rich, it’s Todd. I’ve got good news and bad news.”

Taking the bait, I replied, “Go ahead, give me the bad news.”

His tone changed and became serious, “I’m pretty sure you’ve got a command, but it’s not a flying command and it’s a remote.”

My world came crashing down. I was devastated and angry. What did I do to deserve this?

Then I arrived at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, where the men and women of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, known as the Mighty 8th, and the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing taught me the true meaning of patriotism.

It was during the Mighty 8th’s early morning bus ride to work. Airmen talked of birthdays and weddings missed and of anniversaries that would be delayed; but not with the bitterness or anger I felt when I got the news from my boss that I was headed here.

Instead, I saw a true patriotism flowing from their hearts, and I continue to see it every day.

Most of these men and women volunteered to be activated, knowing full well they’d find themselves thousands of miles from loved ones; missing all those once-in-a-lifetime events that will happen during their rotation.

They talk of things they’ll miss and of the love of their life. Bob’s daughter is sick. The infrequent news he receives provides little reassurance.

Miguel and George speak of their daughters’ sweet 16 parties. The girls say they understand

and they grudgingly accept the cost of their fathers’ patriotism.

They all describe their children and families with love and admiration.

Morris is celebrating his 50th birthday here in the desert. What a milestone to miss sharing with your family.

Rich and Dave married their loves less than a week before they were activated. Some honeymoon.

John is rather quiet. He’s trying to manage a difficult situation. He’s served at PSAB for four months. When he returns to his loved ones, he’ll have 30 days to prepare for a year remote in Korea. You have to wonder how his wife calculates the cost of their family’s patriotism. Over 24 months they’ll be separated for sixteen.

Death is a foe that follows us no matter where we go. Crystal has lost her aunt and can’t be there for the funeral.

John has just returned from his two short weeks of emergency leave. He heard the bad news of his father’s death on his dad’s birthday.

Mike talks of his grandmother and of her passing. Instead of returning on emergency leave, he decided to remain here and serve with the PSAB team. He speaks warmly of her. She sounds like most of our grandmothers and reminds us all of how much we miss them.

Lew’s wife has managed the sale of their home and the purchase of their new home all by herself. She has maneuvered around the lawyers and administrative nightmares and yet she assures Lew, “All’s fine; the pregnancy is going well and the baby’s fine.”

As these incredible people have accepted the burden to serve, so have their families.

They seek no reward or favor, they do this for honor and God’s higher purpose.

Just like you, they are true patriots and have taught me how selfish I have been.

Thank you and God bless you for your service to country and your patriotism.

within our units if we want it to flourish in the Air Force. Help subordinates make the right decision when you see them struggling. It will reinforce their decision, and it will make you a better-informed supervisor.

Hopefully, none of our decisions involving issues of personal integrity will be subject to the scrutiny of Congress or the national media. If they are, and if they are founded on a long-established pattern of personal integrity, we’ll probably weather the storm nicely.

*“They seek no reward or favor, they do this for honor and God’s higher purpose.”*

## ‘Integrity,’ from page 2

I think the same logic works in reverse. If we do not allow ourselves to compromise our integrity for the small, seemingly inconsequential issues, we build a pattern of behavior that helps us do the right thing and make the right decisions when the stakes become a little higher.

In addition to personal actions, supervisors, NCOs and commanders have the responsibility to train and enforce high standards of integrity

## Actionline

298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven’t been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It’s also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.



Col. Dan Woodward  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander

## Base exchange kudos

**Comment:** I went to the base exchange last Thursday night. They were out of the dog food I use. They had ordered two cases for another lady. The cashier called the lady, who said I could have half of her order. In all the confusion, I laid my wallet down. I missed it when I got home, looked everywhere, and even went back to the commissary and BX to see if I left it there, but they were closed. I came back home very upset and picked up the phone to cancel my credit cards. There was a message on the answering machine that the BX had my wallet and I could pick it up before 6 p.m. today or they would put it the safe and I could pick it up tomorrow. I picked up my wallet the next morning and everything was there. I just think it’s so wonderful that we have such honest and caring employees working at the BX. Thanks so very much.

**Answer:** Thank you so much for recognizing the hard working and caring people we have on Laughlin Air Force Base. I believe everyone who works on this base should hold themselves to the highest degree of professionalism. It is great to hear when people do. This is another stellar example of why we call ourselves Team XL.

(Editor note: The 47th Security Forces Squadron also maintains a lost and found. Individuals may drop off items and claim items as required at the desk.)

# Bush says military is last choice, not first

By Linda D. Dozaryn

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Using military force against Iraq is President Bush’s last choice, not his first.

“My hope is that we can achieve a disarmament of the Iraqi regime peacefully,” the president said Oct. 16 after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the White House. “We have no plans to use our military unless we need to.”

Bush said he and Sharon talked about the desire for the U.N. Security Council “to be strong and for the nations that care about peace to see that Saddam is disarmed.”

The United States is willing to work with the United Nations, but if the organization is unable to act, Bush said, the United States would. “If ... after 11 years and 16 resolutions, they cannot bring themselves to disarm Saddam Hussein, then we

will lead a coalition to do just that.”

In the meantime, he said, U.S. officials are giving the United Nations time “to listen to the arguments and to hopefully come together soon to get a resolution which will achieve the objectives.”

Asked about the possibility of an Iraqi attack on Israel, Bush said such an attack would draw an “appropriate response.” Saddam must understand, he stressed, “that the international community won’t tolerate an unprovoked attack on Israel or anybody else, for that matter.”

“Maybe Saddam will attack tomorrow,” the president said. “He’s certainly a dangerous man.”

The Iraqi dictator has attacked two nations and gassed his own people, the president noted. “That’s why he must be disarmed. That’s why the international community must work to disarm him.”



Photo by Michael McKittrick

## Record-breaking blood...

Loretta Haynes of the American Red Cross draws blood from Airman Basic Ranson Holland, an aerospace propulsion student at Sheppard Air Force Base. 325 pints of blood were collected in one day setting a Texas record.

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

## ORI preparation

Every week the Border Eagle will print tips to help Laughlin members prepare for the Operation Readiness Inspection, which takes place in six weeks.

**Training follow-up:** Ensure everybody is now scheduled for or has received all required training. Find out who’s going TDY, on leave or scheduled in conflict with this objective and change it, and remember to review Threatcon checklists.

**Amnesty week for hazardous materials:** Turn materials in for disposal.

## Air Power Call

A Wing Air Power Call is set for 3:30 p.m. today in Anderson Hall Auditorium. Retired Maj. Gen. Fredrick Blesse and retired Col. Bill Campbell will speak about their involvement in Korea and Vietnam.

## Women’s health luncheon

A women’s health luncheon is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today at the Fiesta Center. A light lunch will be served and those attending will receive a T-shirt and educational materials.

# Newslines

Men are welcome to attend and learn about pertinent health issues affecting their spouses, mothers or other significant women in their lives.

For more information, call the Health and Wellness Center at 298-6464.

## Harvest festival

The base chapel will hold a harvest festival at 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the base chapel. There will be many games and activities. Costumes are welcome, but no scary ones.

For more information, call 298-5111.

## Daylight-saving time

Daylight-saving time starts Sunday. Everyone should set their clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday morning or before they go to bed Saturday night.

## Heartlink

The next Heartlink class is scheduled from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Family Support Center. Military spouses with less than

five years of Air Force experience are encouraged to sign up by today.

For more information, call 298-5899.

## Promotion ceremony

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 4 p.m. Thursday at Club Amistad.

For more information, call 298-5068.

## Tobacco cessation class

A tobacco cessation course is set for 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in the Health and Wellness Center conference room.

For more information, call 298-6463.

## Legion meeting

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post 298 will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at The Barn across from Laughlin’s main gate. The 2003 membership cards have arrived and will be distributed. Plans will be discussed in preparation for the Veteran’s Day Parade on Nov. 11. All active-duty military personnel are eligible to join.

For more information, call Murry Kachel at 298-2097.





Photo by Senior Airman Nicole Bickford

### Keeping the desert safe

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Klemme, 363rd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron equipment manager, resets and recharges a battery module near a system sensor at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

### ‘Anderson,’ from page 1

fired upon and hit while trying to secure the best possible photos. The aircraft would crash into the Cuban countryside with Major Anderson still aboard.

The only combat casualty of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Major Anderson paid the highest price his country could ask and received his country’s highest decoration while not engaged in war, the Distinguished Service Medal.

The Soviets, recognizing America’s nuclear arsenal was on full war alert, announced the following day that they were dismantling the sites and withdrawing the missiles.

President Kennedy remarked “We are particularly indebted to Ma-

jor Anderson, who was a member of one of these wings, who was the only casualty of the last few weeks, but who is symbolic, I think, of many Americans to take great hazards on behalf of their country.”

Major Anderson’s heroics serve as the means of symbolically honoring all U-2 pilots for their deeds of valor, which could not be revealed.

On Oct. 26, 2001, Laughlin recognized Major Anderson by dedicating the Operations Training Complex to him.

Now called Anderson Hall with a historical display inside to tell the story that needs to be kept alive for future Americans, and to tell the heroic deeds of Major Anderson and his valiant companions in 4080th 40 years ago.

### ‘Safety,’ from page 1

trol point.”

If lost children aren’t claimed within a reasonable amount of time, they will be transported to the reunion center at Ribas-Dominicci Circle.

Children should wear reflective clothing and carry flashlights to make sure they remain visible, said Major Russ Mack, 47th FTW Safety chief.

In addition, wing safety will be giving children glow bracelets at Ribas-Dominicci

Circle. The base library will also have glow bracelets and Halloween safety pamphlets available for Laughlin people.

For more information, contact wing safety at 298-5662 or security forces at 298-5249.

## Halloween safety tips

- Hats and scarves should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children’s eyes.
- Swords, knives and similar costume accessories should be made of soft flexible material.
- Never let small children go trick-or-treating alone. They should be accompanied by older children or adults. Ensure children walk not run from house to house.
- Do not follow your child in the car. Park and walk with them.
- Confine trick-or-treating to your neighborhoods.
- Urge children to wait until they get home to

- taste their treats so you can inspect them first.
- Use colorful makeup instead of masks to keep clear vision.
- Advise children to wear costumes which are light in color, short enough to prevent tripping and fire resistant. Costumes can be covered with reflective tape or glow spray paint so they reflect the beams of auto headlights and other lights.
- Children should carry flashlights after dark. If a pumpkin is carried, it should be lit with a battery-lighted device, not a candle.
- If you are driving on Halloween night, slow down and be especially watchful. Con-

- sider the large number of children wearing masks that may restrict their vision. Excited children often do not look where they are going and may dart out into the street.
- Children should cross only at corners, never between cars and never diagonally across an intersection. Children should also look both ways before crossing the street; watch for and obey all traffic lights; walk, never run across the street; use the sidewalk, not the street for walking; wait on the curb, not on the street, until the street is clear to cross.

# Coalition strikes back at Iraq

By Jim Garamone  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Coalition aircraft struck at an Iraqi integrated air defense site in the northern no-fly zone Oct. 22, said Air Force Maj. Scott Covode, a spokesman for the combined task force.

Both U.S. and British aircraft took part in the attack. While Covode would not specify the planes used, he did say the British primarily provide refuelers and reconnaissance aircraft.

The planes struck a site near Mosul in response to Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery fire on Operation

Northern Watch patrol aircraft. The response was immediate, Covode said.

“We respond when attacked,” he said.

He would not say whether coalition retaliation was launched against the attacking Iraqi site or some other.

The coalition aircraft are based at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. Officials withheld their unit assignments, citing force protection issues. The response was the second in the Operation Northern Watch area this month. Operation Southern Watch patrols have responded six times in their area this month.

If you know of or suspect  
Fraud, Waste and Abuse,  
call the FWA hotline at  
298-4170.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Meghan Geis

## Fire annihilates tent, trailer

Airman 1st Class Darrel Tirpak, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, put out the remains of a tent fire during a live demonstration held for wing people at a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia. The tent, which is the same typed people sleep in, was totally consumed in under four minutes.

# First lady touts ‘Troops to Teachers’ program

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – The birthplace of aviation became a launching pad for new career possibilities Oct. 16 as first lady Laura Bush spoke about the Defense Department’s Troops to Teachers program.

Bush recognized educators and the potential roles departing military members can play in education during a rally attended by nearly 1,300 people.

As a former teacher, Bush’s enthusiasm for the program was evident.

“Our children are the future,” she said. “Ensuring that they have the best education possible and a chance to realize their dreams is our

greatest obligation. As soldiers, you pledged yourself to duty, honor and country – and your service will never be forgotten.

“Today, I ask you to pledge yourselves to our children, the future of this country. I ask our retiring men and women to answer a new call, the call to teach.”

Troops to Teachers is a program that assists select people who want to begin a career in public education upon departing the military. It began in 1994, and nearly 4,000 veterans have been hired into the nation’s schools since.

Last January, the program was authorized to continue for five more years

through the No Child Left Behind Act. An estimated 2 million new teachers will be needed in the next decade.

Two Dayton school teachers, Greg Powell and Melvin Early, are Air Force retirees who left Wright-Patterson and went into Troops to Teachers. They are the types of role models being sought for the program, said Bush.

“And Wright-Patterson has no shortage of them,” she said. “Members of the military have always been tremendous role models – you possess the greatest in character, commitment and resolve. And today, our children need those qualities more than ever.”

Bush said Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was an easy choice for the presentation.

Teaching may not be for everyone, Bush said. It can be trying and takes patience. Those who think it is about having summers and holidays off could be surprised, she said.

“I think really good teachers are people who know that they really want to help people,” Bush said. “And if you know you want to help people and work well with people, that’s what teaching’s all about. And I think you can probably become a pretty good teacher.”

Bush is heavily involved in promoting several educa-

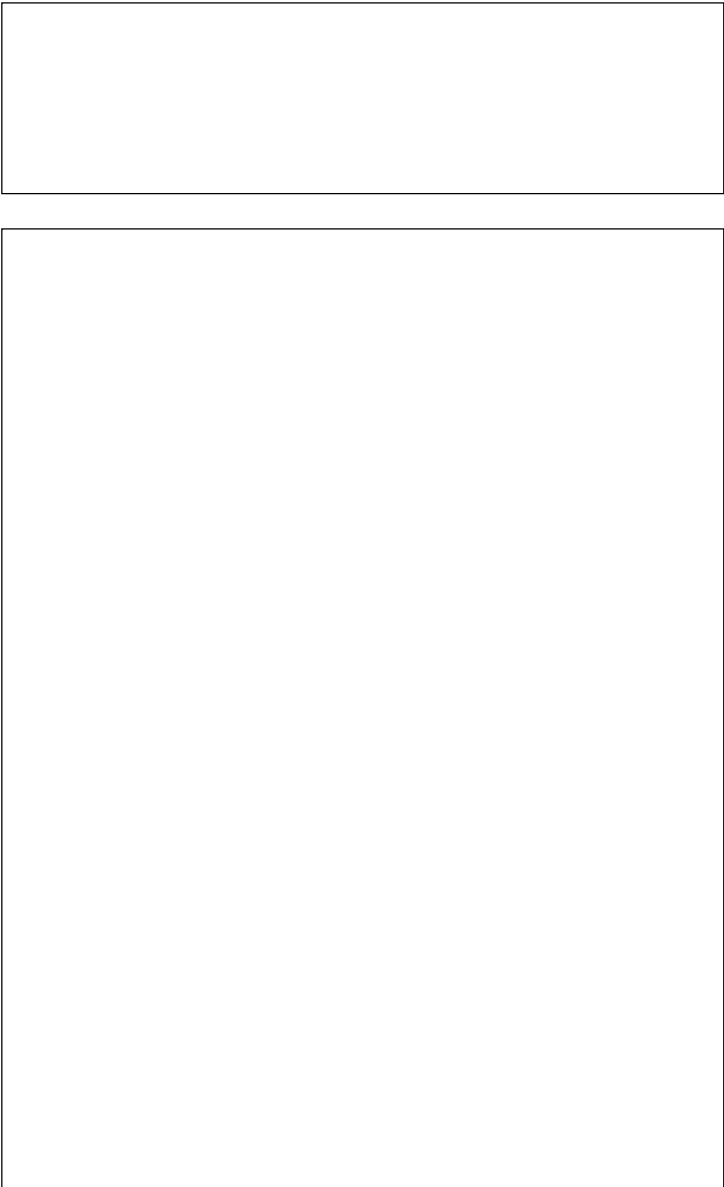
tional programs as well as reading programs in the country. She taught second, third and fourth grades in Texas, and earned a graduate degree in library science and worked as a school librarian.

Bush said she missed the work. She also admitted it was not always easy, but added there were not many professions as rewarding as teaching when you succeed.

“Those years were very satisfying,” she said.

“Teaching might be very difficult, but there’s also never a boring moment when you have 20 little kids around you all the time.”

**(Courtesy of Air Force Link News.)**





# Mission complete: SUPT Class 03-01 graduates today

**Compiled from  
staff reports**

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 03-01 graduates at 10 a.m. today in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

The 52-week SUPT program prepares student pilots for the spectrum of Air Force aircraft and flying missions.

Training begins with three weeks of physiological

and academic training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, subsonic T-37 “Tweet.” In the T-37, students learn flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing, aerobatics and formation flying.

After primary training, the future pilots are selected for advanced in-flight training in a specialized track.

The tracks include tanker and cargo aircraft training in the T-1 aircraft; fighter/bomber training in the T-38; turbo propeller aircraft training in the Navy’s T-44; and helicopter training in the Army’s UH-1. Advanced training in a track takes about 26 weeks.

Graduates of Class 03-01 have been assigned to aircraft at duty stations throughout the world.



**2nd Lt. Christopher Miller**  
B-52, Barksdale AFB, La.  
Class leader



**2nd Lt. Kendall Gillespie**  
C-5, Travis AFB, Calif.  
Assistant class leader



**1st Lt. Shinji Isayama**  
F-15, Nyutabaru AB, Japan



**2nd Lt. Jeffrey Anderson**  
T-6, Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Steven Atkinson**  
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Nancy Badgett**  
T-1, Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Benjamin Carroll**  
KC-135, RAF Mildenhall, England



**2nd Lt. Ricardo Diaz**  
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



**2nd Lt. William Dunn**  
KC-135, Bangor, Maine (ANG)



**2nd Lt. Philip Gause**  
C-5, Dover AFB, Del.



**2nd Lt. Patrick Giggy**  
F-15, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Brent Hooper**  
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. JJerimy Maclellan**  
T-38, Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Kevin Maggio**  
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



**2nd Lt. Douglas McHam**  
C-130, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska



**2nd Lt. Shawn McMahon**  
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. David Paulus**  
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Jon Pitts**  
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. James Sullivan**  
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Julio Trujillo**  
KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J.



**2nd Lt. John Wagemann Jr.**  
F-15, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. John Wilson**  
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



# Deployed to Kuwait:

## Airmen share experiences in austere locales

By Airman 1st Class  
Yvonne Conde  
Staff writer

Flat, sandy deserts, temperatures rarely dropping below 120 degrees and long working days are just a few of the hardships facing airmen when they deploy.

Several members of Team XL experienced these conditions first hand when they were deployed to Kuwait earlier this year.

Airman 1st Class Ronette McBean, 47th Contracting Squadron contracting specialist, was sent to Al Jaber, Kuwait, in March to be a third-country-national escort. Her duties were to watch the third country national who came on base, ensure they completed the duties they were hired to do and report any suspicious activity that occurred.

When she took her first step onto the soil of Kuwait around midnight. She said she could feel a smoldering heat. The security escort team quickly escorted all the new arrivals into the bus.

“It finally hit me – I was in the ‘Middle East,’ [the place] I’ve only seen on the news,” she said. “I was nervous, [but] I was relieved to finally be on the ground. I still had no clue what to expect.”

At the start of the duty day, 5:45 a.m., the TCNs were picked up at the main gate and escorted to the specific location where they worked on base, she said.

“From taking a break, to taking a nap, [to] using the restroom, they were always escorted,” she said.

Though the working conditions in Kuwait can reach 140 degrees at times, it is important for the airmen deployed to these remote locations to carry out the mission, said Airman McBean.

Deploying to Kuwait was an experience, said Staff Sgt. Eric Perez, 47th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of plans and programs, as he recalled his deployment to Ali Al

Salem, Kuwait, in February. “I don’t think I could have done anything more to prepare for the conditions in which we operated and lived,” he said. With the help of his unit and the other base support agencies, Sergeant Perez was able to thoroughly complete his out-processing checks within the time given to prepare for his departure.

“I was notified Wednesday, and we were scheduled to leave Laughlin Friday morning,” he said. “With only two days to prepare, the only thing on my mind was ensuring that my family would be taken care of. The people at legal, the medical group and the family support center really stepped up and took care of us.”

According to Sergeant Perez, it is important to be prepared for deployment at all times.

“Even if you don’t think it’s your time to go, knowing that you’ve got everything in order will make life a lot easier once you do get the call,” he said.

Sergeant Perez said he was fortunate to have had the best source of area-specific information – someone that has actually been deployed to the same location before.

“I knew a bit about the mission there,” he said. “Ironically, my father was deployed to the exact location about 11 years ago during Operation Desert Storm, so his knowledge certainly made things easier. [I was] excited [and] nervous, but ready to go. I had been wanting to deploy, and now I was actually leaving and ready to go do what the Air Force has trained me to do.”

The 40-hour flight to Kuwait initiated a range of emotions, he said.

“I was tired, scared, nervous, anxious but proud,” he continued. “Knowing I was sent to do my job and hopefully make a difference gave me all the confidence I needed.”



## Kuwait facts:

**Area comparative:** Slightly smaller than New Jersey

**Climate:** Dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters

**Terrain:** Flat to slightly undulating desert plain

**Natural Resources:** Petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas

**Population:** 2,111,561

**Religions:** Muslim 85 percent (Sunni 70 percent, Shi'a 30 percent), Christian, Hindu, Parsi and other 15 percent

**Languages:** Arabic (official), English widely spoken

**Government type:** Nominal constitutional monarchy

**Capital:** Kuwait

**Exports:** Oil and refined products, fertilizers

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Close to midnight, the aircraft landed in Kuwait. It was still hot and the security escort team had to be present at the time of arrival, due to the location, he said.

“They were very cautious about our security and gave us many directions to follow,” he said. “It was a bit overwhelming, but it was for our own good. It was uncomfortable not knowing anyone. The environment was definitely one I had never experienced before. [There was] sand literally everywhere. I knew I was a long way from home.”

Sergeant Perez was sent to be a security forces control center operator, but because of manning issues, he performed other various duties such as serving as a senior fire team member and supervising the entry control to ensure the mission of enforcing the Southern No-Fly Zone was maintained.

“The Air Force trained me and gave me what I needed to do my job,” he said. “My daily routine

went through quite a change as my duty day was from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m., so I had to make a huge adjustment right from the beginning. Most of my days were spent patrolling both on and off the base to keep the people assigned there safe and provide protection for aircraft and other resources assigned to the base. The mission I was supporting would benefit everyone, not only those at my deployed location, but the American people as well.

“The time there was a valuable experience for me,” he continued. “I learned a lot about my job, how the Air Force operates in a hostile area and how much I took for granted at my home station.

“I was happy [and] proud that I did my job and that those I was assigned with were all going home safely. I developed a new appreciation for my home, America and the people I cared about. [I] couldn’t wait to step foot back on American soil again.”



## Laughlin Salutes

### Airman Leadership School Graduates

#### Medical Group:

- Senior Airman Shaila Lane, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron
- Senior Airman Donald Trainer, 47th Medical Support Squadron
- Senior Airman Theresa Wheeler, 47th ADS
- Senior Airman Wyll Yabut, 47th Medical Operations Squadron

#### Mission Support Group:

- Senior Airman Anthony Abridello, 47th Security Forces Squadron
- Senior Airman Juan Cervantes, 47th Communications Squadron
- Senior Airman Charles Cook, 47th SFS
- Senior Airman Erin Haislett, 47th SFS
- Senior Airman Stephen Johnson, 47th Civil Engineer

#### Squadron

- Senior Airman Rene Sanchez, 47th Mission Support Squadron
- Senior Airman Don Svabek, 47th Mission Support Group
- Senior Airman Brian Tonnancour, 47th CES
- Senior Airman Christopher West, 47th MSS

#### Operations Group:

- Senior Airman Joseph Banks, 87th Flying Training Squadron
- Senior Airman Rodney Streat, 47th Operations Support Squadron
- Senior Airman Wesley Welch, 47th OSS

#### ALS student awards:

##### Academic Achievement

##### Award:

SrA Donald Trainer

##### Distinguished Graduate:

SrA Donald Trainer

##### John L. Levitow:

SrA Wesley Welch

##### Leadership:

SrA Charles Cook

## The *XL*er

**Hometown:** Alma, Ark.

**Family:** Daughter, Jordin, 8

**Time at Laughlin:** 1 year and 4 months

**Time in service:** 12 years

**Greatest accomplishment:** Raising my daughter

**Hobbies:** Golf, horseback riding, fishing, boating

**Bad habit:** no patience

**Favorite film:**

*Forest Gump*

**Favorite musician:** Lynyrd Skynyrd

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?**

Warren Buffet, so I could learn his hidden secrets of investing.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

**Staff Sgt. Scott Kendrick**

*47th Operations Support Squadron  
STARS automation and air traffic controller*

# myPay improves services to armed forces

ARLINGTON, VA., – Military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants of America's Armed Forces will soon enjoy improved services from myPay to manage their pay account information more easily and more securely than ever before.

"myPay is the key to taking control of your pay information," said Tom Bloom, director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. "By providing innovative and reliable tools to the men and women who serve our country, we help them focus on their mission by eliminating worry and hassle associated with their pay and benefits."

Formerly known as E/

MSS, myPay allows active, Reserve, and Guard members; civilian employees; and military retirees and annuitants to take charge of their pay accounts online.

The new improved service began Oct. 15.

With myPay, customers can perform the following activities by simply using their existing E/MSS Personal Identification Number (PIN):

- View, print and save leave and earnings statements
- View and print tax statements (military members will have this available in Jan. 2003)
- Change federal and state tax withholdings
- Update bank account and electronic funds transfer in-

formation

- Manage allotments
- Edit address information
- Purchase U.S. Savings Bonds
- Control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment (military only)
- View and print travel vouchers

myPay's new design helps customers find the information they want and complete any transaction, anytime. myPay means no waiting in lines or on the phone.

myPay also improves customer confidence by providing clear confirmation messages.

myPay combines strong encryption and secure sockets layer technology with the

user's social security number and PIN to safeguard information from unauthorized access.

By using myPay members and civilian employees can save the Armed Services and the American taxpayer millions of dollars in printing, postage and customer service costs.

myPay provides leave and earning statements online, so customers can turn off the print version of their statements and save Uncle Sam money. If all civilian employees received their leave and earning statements electronically, the Department of Defense could save more than \$6 million annually.

The Defense Finance

and Accounting Service also estimates an additional 17 percent of costs associated with traditional customer service activities can be eliminated by satisfying common questions and account updates online.

"One of our goals is to allow customers to do online anything that they previously had to stand in line to accomplish," Bloom said. Members of the Armed Forces, Defense Department civilian employees, retirees and annuitants can continue to use their E/MSS log on information at [mypay.dfas.mil](http://mypay.dfas.mil)

For more information, please call 1-800-390-2348, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time.



Chapel  
Schedule



Catholic

- Saturday • 5 p.m., Mass  
Sunday • 9:30 a.m., Mass  
• 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall  
Thursday • 6 p.m., Choir  
Reconciliation • By appointment  
Religious Education

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Friday • 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship  
Every day • 12 to 1 p.m., prayer hour

Protestant

- Saturday • 6 p.m., Singles Bible study  
Sunday • 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school  
• 11 a.m., General worship  
• 6:30 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238 for details.  
Wednesday • 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study, children welcome  
• 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

Laughlin people dig up ‘roots’ at genealogy class

By Senior Airman Brad Pettit  
Public Affairs

Several Laughlin people gathered at the chapel fellowship hall Oct. 16 to learn more about their family histories during a beginner genealogy class sponsored by the Family Support Center.

Willie Braudaway, Val Verde County Library reference librarian, discussed various ways for one to begin to discover his or her family’s past, but stressed that it is best to start with what one already knows.

“Find [birth certificates, death certificates and wedding certificates] you have at home,” she said. “Then go to your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles for additional information. These are the areas you want to explore before hitting the court-houses.”

Braudaway discussed books, software and Web sites that might be of interest to those curious to know more.

“An excellent starting point is to pick up any book about genealogy,” she said. “They can provide guidelines to help you begin your search. Another great source of information is familysearch.org.”

After one has begun to establish the basics of their family’s immediate past, other references are available such as library databases, which can help seekers locate various censuses. These may contain names,

dates and locations of deceased family members.

Braudaway, who can trace her lineage back to the late 17th century, said she has been interested in genealogy for quite some time. And during the course of her explorations, she claims to have discovered several interesting facts about her family’s past.

Braudaway said there are many reasons why she thinks genealogy is important.

“It gives us a sense of where we’ve been, where we come from and who we are. It allows us to see the diversity of our backgrounds. Every one of us comes from rich people, poor people, people who did great things or who were notorious. It just lets us discover our part of the great human race.”

Staff Sgt. William Bartram, 47th Operations Support Squadron flight records NCO in charge, said Braudaway helped him learn more about the importance of organization while conducting genealogical searches.

“I’ve been looking into my family’s history for about five years without any insights from anyone else,” he said. “I’ve been all over the place without any real guidance. The class taught me the necessity of good organization.”

The next genealogy class will be scheduled by the FSC in January. For more information, call Aida Gutierrez at 298-5899.



The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>, or call 298-5236.



*“What are you going to be for Halloween?”*



**Jaleel Taylor, 4**  
*Family member*

“Spiderman, because he fights the Green Goblin.”



**Caleb Shroyer, 5**  
*Family member*

“Red Power Ranger. My grandpa bought me the costume.”



**Jillian Fleming, 4**  
*Family member*

“I want to be an angel because they protect you through the night.”

**AF announces TSP open season**

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — Civilian and military employees can sign up for or change current Thrift Savings Plan accounts during “open season” Oct. 15 – Dec. 31.

“TSP is an easy, long-term retirement savings plan, that everyone should consider,” said Maj. Alessandra Stokstad, chief of the AFPC contact center.

“Employees already contributing to the TSP are encouraged to review their TSP plan and account balances,” said Janet Thomas of the center’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team, “as the open season period is the best time to open an account or make changes to an existing one.”

TSP offers investors the

chance for lower taxes each year.

They contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“You can take out loans and make withdrawals from your TSP account,” said Ms. Thomas. “And you can keep your account even if you leave military or federal service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” said Major Stokstad. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Invest-

ment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

“As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better,” said Maj. Stokstad.

Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> or the BEST homepage at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm> and for Air Force military personnel at [http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift\\_savings\\_plan.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm).

1x2  
Animal  
House

1x2 1/4  
Cinema



# Luke pilot assists president en route

**By Airman 1st Class  
Susan Stout**

*56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – Most fighter pilots are on call in the event of an attack, but one Luke instructor pilot is on alert to support presidential travel.

Capt. Dag Grantham, 56th Operations Group instructor and evaluator pilot, is one of 60 Air Force One Advance Agents who provide worldwide support to Air Force One during presidential travel.

Advance agents travel as a member of the White House Advance Team and direct all aspects of logistics and security for the aircraft used by the president and vice president while traveling.

"I'm part of a two-person team sent in advance of Air Force One when the president travels," Captain Grantham said. "The team is organized very similar to a two-ship formation of aircraft. There is a lead (senior) agent, and a number two (junior) agent."

Captain Grantham's two-person team is responsible for everything concerning the aircraft and crew. Agents work with the United States Secret Service, the White House Communications Agency, Marine Helicopter Squadron One and the White House staff.

"I'm directly responsible for coordinating with all agencies when it comes to arrival and departure of the aircraft," Captain Grantham said. "The other agent on my team assists me with executing a five-day checklist. This checklist walks us through the process of meeting with all of the support agencies at the arrival/departure airport and tasking them to support the visit."

The team determines where the

aircraft will be parked, provides scale drawings to the Air Force One crew, and meets with crash and fire rescue, radar approach control, tower, security and fuel personnel.

"I like the fact that the work I do directly impacts the ability of the president to arrive and depart from locations worldwide as easily as it is for him to arrive and depart from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and that I have the opportunity to experience more of the Air Force outside my normal job as an F-16 instructor and evaluator pilot," Captain Grantham said. "This has given me an opportunity to meet and work with some world-class individuals."

Captain Grantham has traveled to Warsaw, Poland; Tokyo, Japan; and Prague, the Czech Republic, in addition to several stateside locations.

"The most enjoyable location has actually been Waco, Texas," he said. "I have been there three times in my service as an Air Force One Advance Agent and have had the opportunity to visit the president's ranch in the execution of my duties. The people of Crawford, Texas, the actual location of the president's ranch, are very proud to have the president in their town and their support of our mission is outstanding."

Agents are attached to the White House Military Office under the office of Special Air Missions at the Pentagon. Each quarter, the office of Special Air Missions hires new agents from different commands; they hire from AETC in January every year. Captain Grantham was selected to be an Advance Agent in January, 2001, and will complete his tour in January, 2003.

Being an agent requires a person to go on temporary duty assignment 65 to 80 days of the year, Captain



Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Burns

Capt. Dag Grantham, 56th Operations Group instructor and evaluator pilot, completes a preflight check on an F-16. He is one of 60 Air Force One Advance Agents who provide worldwide support to presidential travel.

Grantham said.

"While the TDY days are not consecutive, they do impact my family and job," he said. "I typically travel for a week or two every six to eight weeks. My commanders in the 310th Fighter Squadron and the 56th Operations Group have been extremely understanding of my TDY requirements for this job and have supported me fully. That support, along with my family's support, has made this the most rewarding additional duty I have held in my Air Force career."

Although he has not had any direct contact with the president, Captain Grantham said his main priority is the safety and security of the president.

"I may have the chance to get in the receiving line and shake the president's hand one day near the end of my time as an agent, but that is not guaranteed," he said. "I like to tell people I am a very small moving part in a very big machine."

For more information about Air Force One Advance Agents, visit [www.cc.hq.af.mil](http://www.cc.hq.af.mil).

**Interested in the Air Force? Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.**





Jimmie Davis III, 5, son of Jimmie and Mary Davis, kicks a soccer ball in the net during a pass and score drill Tuesday.



Matthew Fauber, 5, son of Robert and Gretchen Fauber, practices dribbling the ball down the field during practice Tuesday.

## Base youth under-six soccer team undefeated heading into playoffs

By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

The Little Macs, one of Laughlin Air Force Base's under-six youth soccer teams, is undefeated heading into Saturday's 11 a.m. playoff game at the Graza Lane Sports Complex in Del Rio.

The team is part of the Del Rio/ Laughlin Youth Soccer Association. "These kids are great," said Steve Fleming, Little Mac coach.

"I've done this for several years now and I never have had a team like this. They are really focused."

The Little Macs practice twice a week and play games on Saturdays. Fleming said the Macs would have to win only five more games to take the championship in the double elimination tournament.

"I think the Little Macs stand a really good chance of winning the U-6 championship this year," said Fleming.

# Sportslines

## Aerobics programs

The XL Fitness Center has a variety of aerobics programs available throughout the week at different times to suit all fitness levels.

Step, Spin, Cardio Kickboxing and Power Yoga classes are available for Laughlin people to attend. Monday – Friday classes are scheduled at 9 a.m., Monday – Thursday includes a noon and 5:30 p.m. class and Monday and Wednesday Power Yoga is scheduled at 6:30 p.m.

All classes are free and conducted by well informed, certified instructors.

For more information, schedules are available at the XL Fitness Center, or call 298-5251.

## Football standings

<u>AFC</u>	<u>W/L</u>
LSI	4-2
CES	3-2
<u>NFC</u>	
Med GP	4-0
86Rios Lobos	4-2
SFS	0-5
<u>XFL</u>	
OSS	5-0
CCS	3-3
LCSAM	3-3